

## SPOTTED COACH DOGS.

The Breed Has Become Practically Extinct in This Country.

What has become of the old black and white spotted Dalmatian dogs, better known as "coach dogs," that were so numerous and popular throughout the United States from 1800 to 1882 inclusive? The breed appears to have become extinct in this country, having, like the Newfoundland, which has shared the same fate, gone out of style and are no longer popular. These dogs were white in color and spotted over every part of the body with small black spots the size of a dime.

They were first brought to England from the Austrian province of Dalmatia, and are still popular to a certain extent in that country, from which the first specimens were brought to the United States shortly after the civil war. One of the reasons why this dog disappeared so quickly was no doubt the fact that he had no particular use other than to pose as a showy animal and to trot along by one's carriage or coach and attract attention by his striking color and markings. Aside from this the Dalmatian dog was completely worthless. He could neither hunt, serve as a watchdog, catch rats, fight, or do anything else that other dogs are capable of doing, and for this reason, no doubt, he died out.—Washington Post.

## Directions in London.

In London and throughout the tight little island the words "up" and "down" have a peculiar significance. In going to London from any part of England you go "up." In traveling in any direction from the capital you go "down." So in London itself everything goes "up" if it goes in the direction of the bank—that is, the Bank of England—and going from that center toward any of the points of the compass is to go "down."

The word bank, which is not only always spelled with a capital "B," but is always uttered with an impressiveness that suggests an initial letter of the largest type, may be said to be in a sense interchangeable with city, a term of equal dignity and value in the eyes of Englishmen, and likewise invariably adorned with a capital "C."

The City does not mean London by any means. It means a certain limited section of London, the part where business is mainly carried on and where the great financial institutions stand.

## Singing School For Thrushes.

A writer in Forest and Stream tells us of the methods the thrush adopts in teaching his little ones to sing.

"Find," he says, "a family of wood thrushes and carefully note what takes place. The old male thrush will sing the sweet song in loud, clear, flute-like notes once and then stop to listen while the young birds try to imitate the song. Some will utter one note, some two. Some will utter a coarse note, others a sharp note. After awhile they seem to forget their lesson and drop out one by one. When all are silent, the old thrush turns up again, and the young thrushes repeat their efforts, and so it goes on for hours. The young birds do not acquire the full song the first year, so the lessons are repeated the following spring. I take many visitors into the woods to enjoy the first thrushes' singing school, and all are convinced that the song of the wood thrush is a matter of education pure and simple."

## Seven.

Numerous are the queer beliefs concerning the number seven. From the very earliest ages the seven great planets were known and ruled this world and the dwellers in it, and their number entered into every conceivable matter that concerned man. There are seven days in the week, "seven holes in the head, for the master stars are seven," seven ages both for man and the world in which he lives. There are seven material heavens. There are seven colors in the spectrum and seven notes in the diatonic octave, and the "leading" note of the scale is the seventh. Be it noted that the seventh son is not always gifted with beneficent powers. In Portugal he is believed to be subject to the powers of darkness and to be compelled every Saturday evening to assume the likeness of an ass.—St. James Gazette.

## Schoolroom Gems.

The following definitions are fresh from the schoolroom and are given undiluted:

"Apherbilly is the state of being an apherbilly."

"Afferbilly is the state of being insane on one subject only."

"Reverberation is when it is made again into a verb."

"The Te Deum is a grand opera."

"The British museum is the principal building in Paris."

"Virgil was a Vestal Virgin."

"Julius Caesar was the mother of the Gracchi."—World's Work.

## The Other Side.

Husband (mildly): You should remember, my dear, that the most patient person that ever lived was a man.

Wife (impatiently): Oh, don't talk to me about the patience of that man Job! Just think of the patience poor Mrs. Job must have had to enable her to put up with such a man.

## Tracing the Responsibility.

Sapphebede: No woman ever made a fool of me.

Miss Caustique: Who did, then?

Philadelphia Record.

A man may be too poor to hire a lawyer and at the same time can afford to keep his own counsel.—Philadelphia Record.

## A DANGEROUS TRAITOR.

The Result of Pechantre's Plot to Kill the King.

Probably no well meaning poet was ever more taken by surprise than was M. Pechantre, a gentle and mild mannered French dramatist of the seventeenth century, who was one day arrested for high treason as he was peacefully eating his dinner at a village inn.

The landlord of the inn where he was in the habit of dining discovered on a table a piece of paper on which were written some unintelligible phrases and below in a plain, bold hand, "Here I will kill the king."

The landlord consulted with the chief of police. Clearly this clew to a conspiracy ought to be followed up. The person who had left the paper had already been remarked for his absent air and gleaming eye. That man was Pechantre.

The chief of police instructed the landlord to send for him the next time the conspirator came to dinner.

When Pechantre was shown the evidence of his guilt, he forgot the awful charge against him and exclaimed:

"Well, I am glad to see that paper. I have looked everywhere for it. It is part of a tragedy I am writing. It is the climax of my best scene, where Nero is to be killed. It comes in here. Let me read it to you." And he took a thick manuscript from his pocket.

"Monsieur, you may finish your dinner and your tragedy in peace," said the chief of police, and he beat a hasty retreat.

## Scarabeus, Egypt's Sacred Beetle.

Scarabeus, "the god beetle of the lower Nile," has been worshiped, petted and feared by several benighted sects of Egypt since the time "when the mind and history of man runneth not to the contrary." Like the other sacred creatures of idolatrous countries, several mythical fancies are woven around this entomological rarity.

The number of its toes, thirty, were supposed to symbolize the average number of days in a month. On each new moon day it deposited a ball containing 300 eggs, which the Egyptian priests assured their followers referred to the number of days in the year, the brilliant golden color of the ball itself personifying the sun. In ancient times this curious beetle was declared to be of but one sex, the male, but modern investigation has exploded that one myth at least.

In connection with the Egyptian nations the Gnostics as well as some of the early Christian fathers speak of Christ as the scarabeus and symbolize him as a man with a beetle's head. The Egyptians always embalmed this sacred insect.

## Two Sickroom Warnings.

In a recent lecture on first aid to the injured the speaker emphasized two cautions that are so commonly disregarded as to be well worth repeating in print. The first is, never rub a person with liniment that has been put on a flannel cloth, for the roughness of the flannel and the friction on the skin, with the penetrating ingredients of the liniment, will easily make an abrasion of the skin, producing a condition that may take weeks to heal. The second warning is that in any condition of unconsciousness the hot object applied, bag, bottle, brick or whatever it may be, must be wrapped in flannel or cloth before it is brought into contact with the flesh of the person to be treated. A severe burn is often made by a thoughtless attendant who puts a too hot water bottle next to the skin while the patient is unconscious or unable to move away.

## Teaching a Parrot.

"There are two ways," said a bird dealer, "of teaching a parrot to talk. One way is to put him in a darkened room, to sit in a corner and to repeat over and over again the word you want him to acquire. A clever parrot will learn a word or a phrase after some 400 or 500 repetitions, while for some it takes a week or more. You must keep still in the room. No sounds from within or without the house save your voice, monotonously repeating the phrase to be acquired, must reach the parrot's ear. Some people teach their birds in a well lighted room, speaking from a place of concealment in a closet or behind a door. This method is not so good, because in the light the parrot's attention is distracted."

## One of O'Connell's "Bulls."

Some extremely amusing mistakes have been made by even the most practiced speakers in their desire to carry their audience with them. O'Connell once in an election speech in Conciliation hall told his followers that if measures injurious to Ireland were brought into parliament he would go over to England and "die on the floor of the house of commons in opposition to them," and when he came back he would say, "Are you for repeal now?"—London Standard.

## Palestine Violins.

The rebab of Palestine is a sort of violin. The body is a square frame covered with parchment. The instrument is played with a bow. There is but one string, a thick, coarse horsehair, but expert performers can, it is said, get considerable variety of tone from this primitive instrument.

## High Explosives.

"Tommy," said the schoolteacher to Tommy Taddells, "what do you understand by the term 'high explosives'?"

"Sky rockets, ma'am," replied Tommy.—Judge.

If the average man were as good as he thinks other men ought to be, it wouldn't be long until his vanity made him topheavy.—New York Press.

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